

# In the Court of Appeals of the State of Alaska

**Sarah Romines Skupa,**  
Appellant,

v.

**State of Alaska,**  
Appellee.

Court of Appeals No. **A-13346**

## **Order**

Date of Order: **May 7, 2020**

Trial Court Case No. **3AN-13-06898CR**

Paul E. Malin, the attorney currently representing Sarah Romines Skupa in this appeal, has moved to withdraw as Ms. Skupa's appellate attorney. Mr. Malin had been privately retained by Ms. Skupa, but according to Mr. Malin's affidavit, Ms. Skupa has recently filed for bankruptcy and can no longer afford to pay him. Mr. Malin also requests that counsel at public expense be appointed to represent Ms. Skupa.

Accordingly, **IT IS ORDERED:**

1. This case is remanded to the superior court for a hearing to determine if Ms. Skupa is eligible for the assistance of counsel at public expense.
2. If the superior court finds that Ms. Skupa is eligible for the assistance of counsel at public expense, the superior court shall make an appropriate appointment and shall direct the new attorney to promptly file an entry of appearance in this Court.
3. If the superior court concludes that Ms. Skupa is not eligible for the appointment of counsel at public expense, the superior court shall notify this Court of this finding.
4. The superior court's report on this matter shall be provided to this Court on or before **June 5, 2020**. This deadline can be extended by the superior court for good cause conditioned upon notice to this Court.

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5. Mr. Malin's motion to withdraw will be held in abeyance. He will continue to represent Ms. Skupa in this appeal until this matter is resolved. (See Appellate Rule 517.1.)

6. In remanding this case, this Court acknowledges that under the current limitations imposed because of the COVID-19 public health crisis, this hearing should be done telephonically if possible. If the hearing cannot be done telephonically, then the superior court shall inform this Court of this circumstance as soon as possible.

Entered under the authority of Chief Judge Allard.

Clerk of the Appellate Courts



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Ryan Montgomery-Sythe,  
Chief Deputy Clerk

cc: Judge Marston  
Trial Court Clerk

Distribution:

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